

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-10 SAB-01 /066 W

----- 093512

R 291008Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3302

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1563

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLO, LE, US

SUBJECT: PLO ACCUSES US EMBASSY BEIRUT OF BACKING PHALANGE

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR PEKIC TOLD ME APRIL 28 THAT IN DAMASCUS MEETING APRIL 16 WITH YUGOSLAV FONMIN THE HEAD OF PLO FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU QADDUMI HAD DISCUSSED RECENT PHALANGE/PLO CONFRONTATION. QADDUMI SAID HE AND ARAFAT WERE CONVINCED THAT PHALANGE HAD STAGED THIS CONFRONTATION AND THAT EMBASSY BEIRUT HAD PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THESE PLANS. THE EMBASSY, QADDUMI ALLEGED, FURTHERMORE HAD ACTIVELY BACKED THE PHALANGE DURING THE CONFRONTATION.

2. PEKIC SAID HE WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF THE PLO'S COMMENTS NOT BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THEY HAD ANY VALIDITY BUT BECAUSE THEY REFLECTED THE UNFORTUNATELY DEEP PLO SUSPICIOUS OF USG MOTIVES. IN HIS OPINION THESE SUSPICIONS WERE INEVITABLE AS LONG AS THERE NO STEADY CONTACT BETWEEN THE PLO AND THE USG. HE ADDED THAT SYRIAN FONMIN KHADDAM HAD COMMENTED TO THE YUGOSLAV FONMIN THAT HE TOO SUSPECTED POSSIBLE USG INVOLVEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE PHALANGE. PEKIC SAID HE SAW NO CONCEIVABLE USG INTEREST IN UP-
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SETTING THE DELICATE LEBANESE BALANCE AND CREATING SHOCK

WAVES WHICH WOULD FURTHER DESTABLIZE THE ENTIRE AREA.
IN ASSURED HIM THAT REPORTS OF USG INVOLVEMENT WERE TOTALLY
WITHOUT FOUNDATION.
MURPHY

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NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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